

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Canceled)

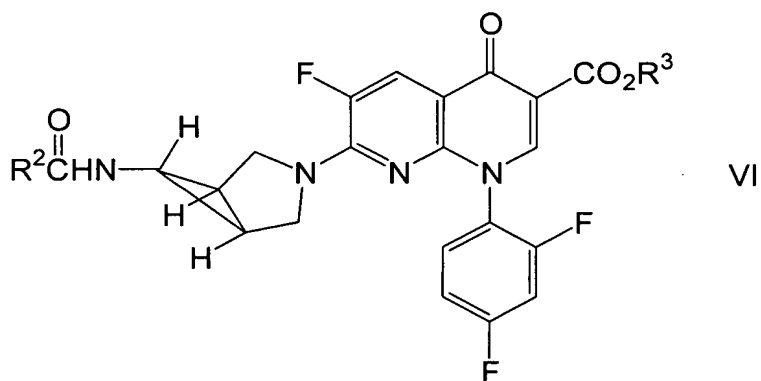
Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

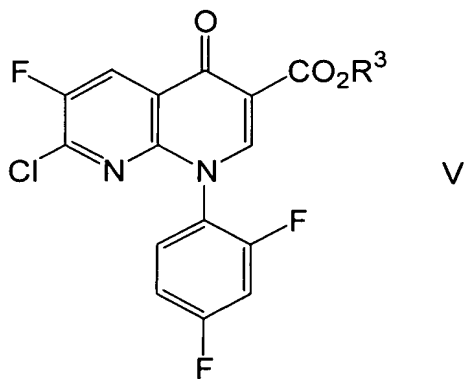
Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Canceled)

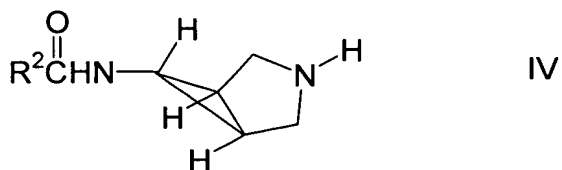
Claim 8 (previously presented). A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula



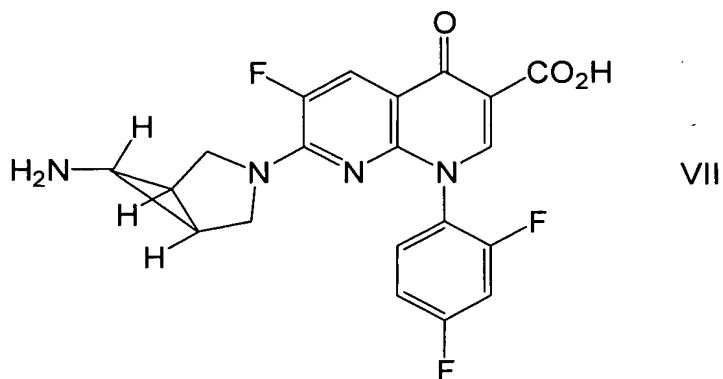
wherein R^2 is C_1 - C_6 alkyl, trifluoromethyl, or phenyl which may be substituted by one or more of C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, halo, nitro, amino or trifluoromethyl, and R^3 is C_1 - C_6 alkyl, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula



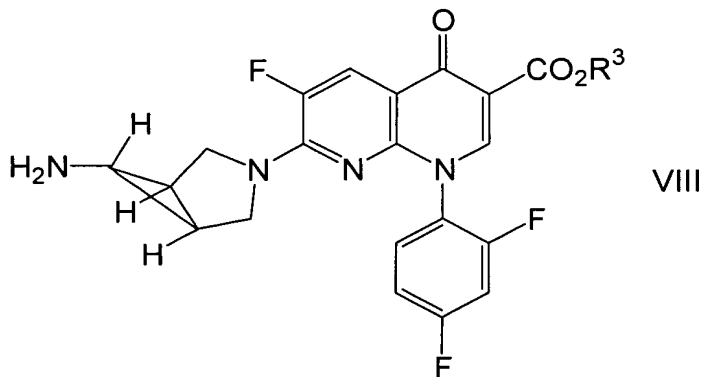
with a compound of the formula



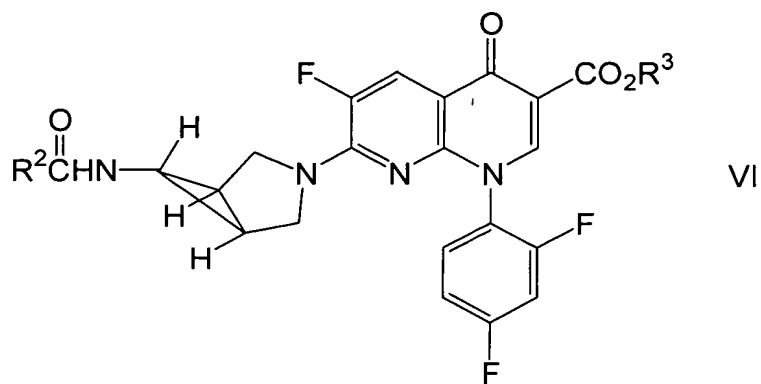
Claim 9 (previously presented). A process comprising hydrolysis of the compound of formula VI with methanesulfonic acid, water and an organic solvent to form a monomethanesulfonic acid salt of a compound of the formula



Claim 10 (previously presented). A process comprising hydrolysis of the compound of formula VI with methanesulfonic acid and R³OH wherein R³ is C₁-C₆ alkyl to form a monomethanesulfonic acid salt of a compound of the formula



Claim 11 (original). A compound of the formula



wherein

R^2 is C_1 - C_6 alkyl, trifluoromethyl, or phenyl which may be substituted by one or more of C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, halo, nitro, amino or trifluoromethyl, and R^3 is C_1 - C_6 alkyl.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

CONCLUSION

In view of the present Response, entry of the resubmitted "Amendments to the claims" section and further and favorable examination of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee, other than the one-month extension of time fee, is required for the consideration of this Response. However, if any additional fees are required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-1445.

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Lance Y. Liu
Lance Y. Liu
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 45,379

Customer No. 28523
Pfizer Inc.
Patent Dept.
MS 4159
Eastern Point Road
Groton, CT. 06340
(860) 686-1652